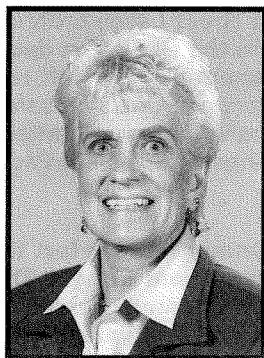


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator
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May 31, 2004



MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE To many, Memorial Day marks the official beginning of summer. To our nation's veterans, it is a day to honor their fallen brethren. General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic officially proclaimed May 30, 1868 as Memorial Day to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. During the first Memorial Day ceremony, flowers were placed on the graves of more than 20,000 soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave of the soldiers buried there.

DID YOU KNOW? Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves.

STATE UNVEILS NEW GASOLINE PRICE SITE In an effort to provide some relief for those Michigan residents who might be planning for summer travel, the state Department of Transportation (MDOT) recently announced a new web-site which lists fuel prices around the state and offers other travel-related information. With this site, motorists can find the best fuel prices both for the area in which they live and any area they may plan to visit this summer. The state is borrowing the data from other national websites and is not paying anyone to gather the pricing information. The site provides up-to-date information on construction projects and other highway closings, as well as tips on purchasing and conserving fuel. For more information in regard to fuel prices and travel, including some of the state's summer attractions and events, please visit www.michigan.gov/gasprices.

2004 WATERCRAFT DECAL DESIGN CHALLENGE The Michigan Senate recently kicked off the 2004 Watercraft Decal Design Challenge. Residents are encouraged to submit designs that will be used on decals to raise money for the Great Lakes Protection Fund (GLPF). The fund is designed to provide financial support and greater awareness of efforts to eradicate aquatic nuisance species in Michigan's waters and to conduct general research on Great Lakes protection issues. The decals will be available beginning October 1. The price will be \$35, with \$25 going to the GLPF. The decorative decal may be placed on cars, trucks, trailers, or other vehicles but does not replace the required watercraft registration or identification stickers. Entry forms for the design contest are available on the Secretary of State's website at www.michigan.gov/sos and at every Secretary of State branch office. Entry forms must be received or postmarked by midnight June 16. Mail design submissions and entry forms to 2004 Watercraft Decal Design Challenge, Attn: James Fackler, Michigan Secretary of State, Treasury Bldg., 4th Floor, 430 West Allegan, Lansing, 48918.

MICHIGAN BEGINS SEARCH FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE As residents prepare for summer fun, the last thing on their minds is the winter holiday season. However, the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB) recently announced that the search for the state's holiday tree has begun. This year marks the 18th annual search for a holiday tree to be displayed on the front lawn of the Capitol Building. The tree, selected from a private donor in Michigan, must be a spruce or fir at least 65 feet tall, with a maximum crown diameter of 30 feet and trunk diameter of no more than 30 inches. All entries must be received by July 1, 2004. For more information regarding Michigan's holiday tree search, please contact DMB at 517-373-1004, or contact my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov